



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, January 13, 2011

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**Public Affairs**

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### **District Man Sentenced to 14 Months in Prison In Attack Against Transgender Women**

WASHINGTON – Dimas Melgar, 45, of Washington, D.C., has been sentenced to 14 months in prison on charges stemming from a March 2010 assault of two transgender women, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today.

Melgar, also known as Carlos Chinchilla, pled guilty in October 2010 to a charge of assault with significant bodily injury. He was sentenced on January 12, 2011, by the Honorable Judge Robert E. Morin in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

The judge also ordered that Melgar be placed on three years of supervised release and pay \$100 to the Violent Victim Compensation Account upon completion of his prison term.

According to the government's proffer at the plea hearing, Melgar approached the victims at the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and Shepherd Streets NW at noontime March 13, 2010. Melgar, who did not know the victims, yelled that he hates all gay people. As he was verbally harassing them, Melgar picked up a metal pole and swung it at one of the victims, striking her on the face. The victim suffered a cut to the lower lip and laceration to the chin, which caused bleeding.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of Metropolitan Police Department Officers Carlos Amaya and Sean Hill. He also praised the outstanding work of Assistant United States Attorney John C. Truong, who investigated and indicted the case.

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